Scarcity of life saving drugs

2274. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Hindustan times dated the 11th July, 1992 under the caption "Life Saving Drugs Scarce";

(b) if so, what are the names of price controlled and decontrolled products mentioned therein;

(c) what is the percentage price increase in each product after the announcement of DPCO 1987 and what is the present price of each;

(d) when Government increased the prices of price-controlled products under DPCO and what are the basc on which price increase was allowed;

(e) whether it is a fact that none of the producers submitted Form 2-A before increase of price decontrolled medicines; and

(f) if so, what action Government have taken against those producers who violated the provisions of Drugs Price Control Order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rifampicin, Wysolene, Lasilactone, Vitamin A and D, Vitamn C, Dilantin Cap. Epsolin Injection Lanoxin Drops, Injection Efcorlin are under price control as per DPCO, 1987. Being in the small scale sector, the manufacturers of Salazopyrin Tabs, Hunvan Tabs, Lnyechei Halazon, Benspar Caps, Injection Cytosar and Neospokimeys Drop Thoint are outside price control. The rest are decontrolled formulations.

(c) to (f) The information will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Non filing counter affidavits

2275. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of various court cases in respect of which counter affidavits have not been filed within three months;

(b) since when the counter affidavit is pending in each case and what are the reasons for this pendency in each case;

(c) whether it is a fact that in several cases counter affidavits have not been filed even after year; and

(d) who was required to do so and what steps have been taken to fix responsibility for these lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (d) The Counter Affidavits against the Writ Petitions filed by the following companies have not been filed by the Government:—

S. No.	Name of the Company	Year of filing writ petition	Name of the Court
1	M/s. Dolphin	1990	Calcutta High Court
2	M/s. Cadila	1991	Ahmedabad High Court
3	M/s. Bakul	1990	Bombay High Court
4	M/s. Abbott	1992	Do.
5	M/s. Pfizer (Oxytetracycline) . . .	1992	Do.
6	M/s. Pfizer (Multivitamin formulations) .	1992	Do.
7	M/s. Sandoz	1992	Do.

In case of Writ Petitions mentioned at Sl. Nos. 3 and 6, the parawise comments have already been sent to the Government Counsel for necessary action. As regards other cases, the parawise comments are being prepared and will be sent to Government Counsel for necessary action. These cases will be pursued vigorously through the appropriate legal channels and will be defended in the best public interest.

Shortage of Life Saving Drugs

2276. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn on the News item appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 11th July, 1992 under caption "Life Saving Drugs Scarce";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Vicks Cough Drops, Vaporub, Isabgol, dex, Savlon Liquid, Electrical, Flucort Lotion, Endrine Nansal Drops are outside price control under DPCO, 1987;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for shortages of these products as reporterd despite the fact that the producers are free to charge any price;

(d) whether it is a fact that the producers increased the prices without any basis after the announcement of DPCO, 1987;

(e) if so, what was the price of each before DPCO, 1987 and at present;

(f) whether it is a fact that producers are deliberately creating panic by short supply in the market; and

(g) if so, what action has been taken against each under essential Commodities Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only three products namely Savlon Liquid, Flucort Lotion and Endrine Nasal drops are under price control as per DPCO, 1987.

(c), (f) and (g) Number of formulations, both under and outside price control, being marketed at present runs into thousands. In most of these cases of reported shortages, the same medicine is available in some other brand name or therapeutic equivalents are available. As a result, time and efforts required for going into the reasons of shortages of these brands would not be commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

(d) and (e) To the extent available, information has been given in the enclosed statement. (*see* below) Out of 8 medicines, four are outside the purview of DPCO, 1987. Out of remaining four, three are under price control. Price revision of medicines under price control is given in accordance with the provisons of DPCO, 1987 after obtaining the recommendations of BICP, and expert body on industrial costs and prices. This mechanism ensures that the price revisions approved are related to the actual increase in input costs. As per details given in the enclosed statement, price increase in case of Electrical Granules between 1986 and 1992, does not appear to be unreasonable.